or quite obliterated, iridectomy still remains the sheet anchor. The chapters on *optico-ciliary neurotomy*, *foreign bodies in the eye*, *iridotomy*, and *capsulotomy*, though offering nothing specially new, will amply repay perusal. In closing the volume we can only wish that some other authors possessed Dr. Abadie's entertaining manner of dealing with what are ordinarily considered dry subjects. S. M. B.

ART. XVIII.—*Transactions of State Medical Societies.*

1. *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society.* Vol. II., part iv. 8vo. pp. 223–318. 1880.
2. *Proceedings of the Connecticut Medical Society*, 1881. *Nineteenth Annual Convention, held at Hartford*, May 25th and 26th. New Series, vol. ii. No. 2, Hartford, Conn. 8vo. pp. 246. 1881.
3. *Transactions of the Thirteenth Annual Meetings of the Illinois State Medical Society, held at Belleville*, May 18, 19, 20, 1880. 8vo. pp. 228. Chicago.

THE present issue of the *Rhode Island* Transactions, being part four of volume two of the series, contains the reports of three quarterly meetings, and of the sixty-ninth annual meeting, which was held in Providence, June 9, 1880.

In the Presidential address Dr. Edward T. Caswell, discussing public health, and the care of it by the State, considers the importance of properly constituted and duly authorized State Boards of Health, to the community at large. In conclusion, he reviewed the institution and progress of the National Board of Health, referring in the warmest terms of approbation to its diligence and efficiency, claiming for its work the fullest appreciation, and asking for it the cordial support, especially of physicians, in all parts of the country. He says—

> "I think we are in possession of enough facts to warrant us in according all praise to the efforts of the National Board, and in rendering a cordial support to their measures. The spread of yellow fever, with our present increased means of transit, ceases to become a merely local matter. A few hours, or at the most, days may pass the bearer of contagion from Southern ports to almost any point of the more populous region of our country, and hence it becomes a matter of national importance to summarily arrest the progress of the disease. The interests of one are the interests of all, and in no way, I think, can these be so certainly secured and guarded, as by giving the fullest powers and all the necessary resources to a Board, such as the present National Board has shown itself to be."

A Case of removal of both Ovaries by Abdominal Section, for the relief of an exhausting Menorrhagia and Uterine Fibroid, with remarks by Anita E. Tyng, M.D., was reported by the operator. The patient, a lady leading the sedentary life of a school teacher, was troubled with menorrhagia and slight dysmenorrhœa. Subsequently a sub-peritoneal fibroid was discovered which increased while under observation from 1870 to 1880 when the operation of oöphorectomy was finally performed. Hæmorrhoids had also existed, which were removed at a previous operation with great relief to the dorso-lumbar pains from which the patient greatly complained. At the time of operation the patient was forty years of age. The details of the final operation were very carefully conducted under the carbolized spray, the patient being under the influence of ether. At the end of three weeks the patient was sitting up. At the first monthly period there was a slight show and headache for a few hours, both of which recurred every day for a week. The second period was accompanied by tympanites and pelvic distress, but there was no flowing. (The subsequent report of the case may be found in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for January, 1881, page 188.)

Dr. W. O. Brown, of Providence, contributes a paper entitled *Atmospheric Influences upon the Animal System*, which contains the following conclusions:—

> "Carefully conducted experiments have proved that, when pressure upon the air we breathe is largely increased, characteristic and definite changes are produced in the blood and upon the muscular and nervous symptoms; that this condensation may be carried to the extent of producing cutaneous eruptions, deafness, paralysis, and even death, especially upon its sudden removal.
>
> "Through observations made under the supervision of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell and by others upon the human system, in relation to this subject, it has been demonstrated that changes in the weather, commonly, if not constantly, influence neuralgic paroxysms in some, probably in most, of their protean forms, and that there is abundant reason to suppose that the same influence is extended to a large class of other diseases.
>
> "Ozone, which is or was at a very recent period believed to be a principal agent in the production or prevention of disease, is now proved to be nearly or quite inoperative, being usually absent from the air of cities, and in the country so diluted as to be essentially inert.
>
> "Barometric changes are known to have sensible influence upon pain, but they are so associated with humidity and temperature as to make it difficult to estimate their separate or specific agencies.
>
> "Electricity and galvanism evidently exert powerful, but hitherto undefined, influence upon the animal economy, and should be principal elements of study in estimating weather effects upon pain or health.
>
> "By the use of oxygen and other gases, it may be quite possible to form an artificial atmosphere which shall be serviceable in the treatment of disease. A large class of diseases, characterized by deficient respiration, it is proved can be benefited in this manner."

At the same meeting Dr. Geo. W. Porter read a paper on *Battey's Operation*, claiming for it a legitimate sphere in otherwise hopeless hystero-neuroses, in inveterate dysmenorrhœa, and especially in uterine fibroma. The author acknowledges, however, that the necessity for its performance only rarely occurs. He prefers the abdominal incision.

An interesting case of *Thrombosis of the Middle Cerebral Artery* is communicated by Dr. Oliver C. Wiggin, with the post-mortem examination. The autopsy showed the congenital absence of the right auriculo-ventricular septum, the tricuspid valve lying smoothly against the ventricular wall. No other sign of heart disease was present, although the left ventricle may have been a little hypertrophied. There were evidences of slight meningeal inflammation, and the occluded vessel was the seat of degenerative or hyperplastic disease of the basement membrane; a large portion of the hemisphere supplied by the middle cerebral artery was in a condition of acute softening, which occurred in the short time, sixty-five hours, that the patient survived the occlusion. "The red, softened, and corrugated state of the lining membrane of the occluded vessels no doubt took place after the accident." The granular protuberances, on the contrary, although identical with those occurring in inflammation of the arteries, were not regarded as factors of causation of the thrombosis.

A short note upon an endemic of intermittent fever that occurred at Drownville, R. I., August, 1880, was contributed by Dr. Stephen S. Keene, who records it as the first time that endemic intermittent fever has been observed in Rhode Island.

Dr. George Capron made some extended remarks upon the use of the obstetric forceps, in which, while urging caution in regard to their unnecessary employment, especially in the high operation, proper appreciation is shown of the great advantages offered by the instrument, obviating as it does very frequently the necessity of craniotomy, and saving the life of the child. Lingering labour *per se* is not considered as sufficient excuse for the resort to the forceps; but difficult labour from various causes, especially when the head becomes impacted in the middle of the canal, urgently demands intelligent interference, and the skilful application of the forceps. Where the interests of the mother or child are not endangered, delay is advisable; and in case of convulsions the induction of premature labour by forcible dilatation and forceps delivery is deprecated and condemned.

The obituary notices read were those of Drs. Samuel Mowry, Jas. T. Buttrick, Wm. W. B. Greene, Elisha F. Lamphear, and Richard S. Satterlee. A very good heliotype photograph of Dr. Mowry is also contained in this issue of the *Transactions*, and adds to its value.

2. Among the reports of special committees of the *Connecticut* Society that on *Medical Expert Testimony* considers a very important topic. While conceding to the accused in every case the right to a fair hearing, which may include the calling of expert witnesses in the defence, for the purpose of preventing unwarrantable deductions from the scientific testimony offered for the prosecution, at the same time experts are cautioned to confine their statements to questions of ascertained facts, and to avoid the temptation of giving personal opinions or interpretations as scientific truth. The expert especially deserves condemnation when he allows himself to become the advocate of a party: "the expert is supposed to have no client even though called by a party; but is expected to state only what are undoubted facts, or reliable and generally received deductions."

The report of the committee on the subject of *Lunacy Commissions, in the United States and Foreign Countries, their Histories, Aims, and Results*," in majority and minority reports, contains much information upon the subject, and both speak approvingly of supervision by proper authorities of insane asylums in order that efficiency may be recognized and extended, and inefficiency and abuses discovered and restricted.

In the report on Matters of Professional Interest in the State some interesting short papers are communicated, among which we notice cases of *Hiccough arrested by Quinine* (in a malarial subject), and of *Pyonephrosis, with recovery after Aspiration*, both by Dr. J. W. Lyons. There are also contributions on *Lacerations of the Cervix*, by Dr. Geo. C. Jarvis; *Tuberculosis of the Mouth and Pharynx*, by Dr. C. W. Chamberlain; and the *Etiology of Intermittent Fever in the Lower Valley of the Connecticut*, by Dr. R. W. Griswold. Dr. R. W. Bunn describes an outbreak of dysentery following the use of impure ice, and Dr. A. Peck gives an admirable summary of the *Treatment of Typhoid Fever*.

Dr. E. C. Seguin, of New York, delivered before the Society a dissertation upon the *Importance of the Early Recognition of Epilepsy*, "in which a number of cases are quoted in illustration of the neglect by physicians to recognize epilepsy in its early and most curable stage. *Petit mal* is often ignored for years, and is usually looked upon as a trivial affection." While apparently of less importance than convulsions, the converse is really true. The importance of early treatment is insisted upon before the habit of convulsions is acquired, or the so-called epileptic centre (?) established in the brain. The subject of treatment is only incidentally considered in this paper, which is devoted mainly to diagnosis. The important distinction existing between eclamptic attacks and true epilepsy is insisted upon, and attention is called to the error of admitting beyond the true infantile age (3 to 4 years) a marked liability to symptomatic or eclamptic convulsions. Conceding that the symptoms of eclampsia and epilepsy are similar if not identical—"the same symptom-group occurring under different conditions"—the following summary of the diagnostic points is given :—

1. After the third year such attacks are very probably epileptic. The possibility of uremia and of syphilis should be borne in mind and a careful investigation made as to their existence.
2. Under the third year the attack may be eclamptic, probably is, but its causes should be carefully judged.
3. In many cases under three years it is well to give a moderate amount of bromide of potassium (or sodium) with regularity for several months after a convulsion ; that is to say, in such cases as do not present an evident, indisputable pathological condition sufficient to cause eclampsia.
4. In all cases above three years the bromide treatment should be at once instituted and kept up for many months.

An interesting and timely essay on *Sympathetic Ophthalmia* is furnished by Dr. S. B. St. John, dwelling particularly upon the importance of early recognition of this serious affection, especially when associated with a traumatic cause, and advocating optico-ciliary neurotomy of the offending eye in preference to enucleation, wherever practicable.

Dr. Fleischner, of New Haven, in a paper on *Non-Pharmacological Therapeutics*, in which he especially considers the applications and the utility of water in the form of the bath or wet pack in a number of disorders, makes a very strong plea for hydropathic treatment of fevers, more especially those having a wide thermometric range. Not only in the eruptive fevers, like scarlatina, but also in inflammatory processes in the thorax, or abdominal, and especially the pelvic organs, is this form of treatment of great service. A caution is given against the too frequent use of the hot vaginal douche as tending to produce subsequent relaxation of tissues; for sudden emergencies such as hemorrhage, the value of hot water injections is acknowledged, but for chronic conditions, as in passive discharges, cold applications are more curative.

In an essay containing the notes of thirteen cases operated upon by Dr. Matthew D. Mann, entitled *Clinical Observations on the Treatment of Laceration of the Cervix Uteri by Operation*, the proceeding of Emmet is warmly endorsed, as a discovery which, with Sims's operation, marks an era in gynæcology. The reporter found about one case out of three of chronic uterine disease was suffering from this form of laceration, and as a rule admitted of permanent relief, only by denudation and suture. In more than thirty operations he had never seen a single bad result attributable directly to the operation.

From a consideration of *Milk; its Nature, its Contamination, and as a Vehicle of Contagion*, Dr. M. M. Johnson draws the practical deductions that milk may contain the germs of a disease from which the animal producing it is suffering, and may communicate this disease to persons consuming the milk (especially tuberculous disease). Also that one cow's milk is more dangerous for the feeding of infants than the mixed milk of the dairy. Furthermore, that contagious diseases (typhoid, scarlatina, diphtheria) are frequently transmitted to families by milk. "When a contagious disease is taken into the system by ingestion, it causes an irritation of the alimentary canal, resulting in vomiting and diarrhœa, and the period of incubation is greatly shortened."

The foregoing paper is well supplemented by one by Noah Cressy, M.D., read at the same meeting, on the *Transmission of Bovine Tuberculosis from Infected Milk*, in which the actual and present danger to the community from this source is earnestly insisted upon and State aid invoked to prevent the sale of milk from tuberculous cows.

In an essay on *Laceration of the Female Perineum*, Dr. W. C. Burke, Jr., very ably and forcibly discusses the means of obviating this accident by relaxing the perineum, compelling the head to hug the pubic arch, and seeking to disengage the head in the interval between pains; so-called supporting the perineum is unsparingly condemned. Immediate, or the primary operation is recommended, coaptating the parts as closely as possible; being sure to pass the sutures deep enough to restore the perineal body, and not the integument and superficial structures alone.

Some obituary notices of deceased associates, and the usual lists of members close this more than usually interesting report of this relatively venerable Society.

3. One of the events of the thirteenth annual meeting of the *Illinois* Society, which deserves a special note, was the severing by Prof. N. S. Davis of his official relation in the Society as its Permanent Secretary, a position held by him continuously for nearly thirty years, with great advantage to the Society. His reason for this step was failing health.

The President's Annual Address, by E. Ingals, M.D., of Chicago, was especially devoted to the consideration of the duties of the government and the medical profession in regard to exciting public interest in sanitary questions. The disposal of sewage, especially as the problem is presented in Chicago, and the importance of good ventilation, were particularly deemed worthy of discussion in the deliberations of the society.

The proceedings of the session were largely in the form of reports upon special subjects made in accordance with appointment at the previous meeting; of which there were eight presented; the volunteer papers were only six in number.

In the *Report on Practical Medicine*, Dr. W. S. Caldwell advocates the wet-sheet and quinia in pneumonia, with alcohol, digitalis, and opium; and the treatment of diphtheria by quinia, tincture of the chloride of iron, and alcohol; with local applications (of tannin (ʒij) alcohol (ʒij) and water (℥j), or powdered alum freely applied). When laryngeal symptoms manifest themselves, he recommends inhalations of spray of carbolic acid and lime-water. In this article are cases that appear to demonstrate conclusively the contagious character of diphtheria under ordinary circumstances; and also the great importance of fresh air in its treatment.

A very interesting report of an *epidemic of mumps* was communicated by Dr. F. B. Haller; in the neighbourhood of Vandalia, "there seemed to be no escaping the specific influence of the disease, by those unprotected by a former attack; all fell victims." Metastasis among male adults, to the testes, occurred as a rule; this likewise appeared on boys, who were also liable to brain complication. Metastasis scarcely ever occurred among adult females, and in no instance among young girls. In men the left testicle was most commonly affected, in some cases both were involved, it was believed that in some virility was lost as a result of the inflammation.

Tracheotomy in Croup and Diphtheria with Cases is the title of a valuable contribution to this subject by Drs. Lee and Fenger of Chicago, which contains a tabular statement of 22 cases operated upon, 17 by Dr. Lee, 5 by Dr. Fenger, most of which were cases of diphtheria; the former operator with six recoveries, the latter had three. The explanation of the serious mortality after the operation is that its performance is usually delayed until the case is otherwise hopeless. In the treatment of diphtheria much stress is laid upon the benefit of the *continuous* spray of carbolized lime-water by a steam atomizer, devised by Dr. Lee, both prior and subsequent to tracheotomy. The tube is to be removed for a short time on the fourth day, each day increasing the length of the time.

The early and lamented death of Dr. F. H. Davis, of Chicago, lends a sad interest to an article from his pen in this volume entitled "*Inhalations in the Treatment of Pulmonary Diseases*," in which the indications for the use of pulverized solutions with or without steam, and dry gases and vapours of volatile substances are very ably set forth, and the details clearly described. The volatile oil of eucalyptus is especially recommended; in profuse purulent secretion, it appears to be better tolerated than carbolic acid.

Dr. Wm. Hill, chairman of Committee, furnished an interesting *Report on Surgery*, and Dr. Fredrick Cole reported two cases, one of compound fracture of the ankle-joint (Pott's), and one of crush of the foot, in both of which by conservative surgery and continuous irrigation with iced carbolized water the foot was saved. Upon reading the account it appears very evident that the healthy condition of the patients, and their admirable hygienic surroundings, being in the fresh air of the country, had very much to do with the unusual result.

A very convenient universal extension splint for raising patients bodily from the couch, was devised by Dr. Verity; its construction is fully explained with its mode of application. The entire outfit can be made by any blacksmith, and need not cost over ten dollars; it seems to be of great utility in a number of conditions in which the patient is helpless or nearly so.

The *Report of the Committee on Advance in Obstetrics* urges the importance of making practical midwifery a part of the curriculum of every medical college, and the attendance upon such a course a prerequisite to graduation. They also report two instances of maternal impressions affecting the physical structure of the fœtus; and finally discuss the value of anæsthetics in labour, and urge the general but judicious use of chloroform, not carried to its full toxic effect. In a partial report from the same committee, Dr. L. H. Carr calls attention to the value of neurasthenia as an evidence of uterine disease, which, moreover, is generally its exciting cause. "The efforts to cure the disease of the nervous system, while ignoring the uterine disease, are failures in a greater number of cases than are the efforts to cure the uterine disease without addressing remedies directly to the exhausted nervous system."

In the *Report on Ophthalmology and Otology*, an interesting case of double optic neuritis from a violent fit of anger, followed by recovery, is recorded. The remainder of the report discusses the pathology of suppurative inflammation of the middle ear, and insists upon the importance of instituting early treatment, so as to prevent the dangerous results of pressure of retained products of inflammation in the tympanic cavity.

Insufflation by the Politzer or Valsalvian method is recommended, and also puncture of the membrane where there is much tension; the free use of the warm-water douche half an hour at a time will greatly relieve the pain and the attendant congestion. Bromide of potassium and chloral with opium is much more efficient than opium alone in the treatment of earache. In chronic suppuration nothing especially new is offered, beyond the general warning against neglect of ear discharges which so frequently produce fatal results. Astringent solutions of zinc. sulphat. (gr. iv), acid. carbolic. (gr. j), or plumbi acetas (gr. x) to the ounce of water are recommended. Boracic acid (gr. xx to ℥j) has also been used with good results; potassium permanganate seems too stimulating, and has been discarded by the reporter. In cases with perforation, after discharge has stopped, the artificial membrana tympani cut from writing paper, as recommended by Dr. Blake of Boston, has given good satisfaction. In all chronic cases of ear discharges, the importance of treatment of the naso-pharynx is acknowledged and insisted upon.

In eye diseases, cold applications for various forms of conjunctivitis, especially the purulent variety, as recommended by Dr. H. Knapp, of New York, are fully endorsed by the reporter, who believes that they offer a greater proportion of successes than any other treatment. The rules are first to see that the eye is kept clean, and, secondly, to persistently apply cold by means of very light compresses frequently wet with ice-water.

Dr. A. Z. Gill, after ably discussing the vexed question of the *Identity or Non-identity of Membranous Croup and Diphtheria*, and after a careful weighing of the evidence, offers the following conclusions:—

1. There is no distinction to be made from a microscopic examination of the exudate which would lead to a division of membranous laryngitis into non-diphtheritic and diphtheritic, or simple membranous croup and diphtheritic croup.
2. There is no distinction, clear and decided, to be made, based on chemical examination of the membranous product.
3. Every clinical manifestation by which a distinction might at first appear between diphtheritic and non-diphtheritic membranous laryngitis is unreliable, in a differentially diagnostic point of view.

A table of 23 cases of tracheotomy for croup or diphtheria is continued from 1879. The total reported from this state was 129, with 27.9 per cent. of recoveries: 36 recovered; 93 died; of these, nine died on the table or immediately after the operation. F. W.

ART. XIX.—*The Hygiene of Emigrant Ships.* By THOMAS J. TURNER, A.M., M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director U. S. Navy. 8vo. pp. 71. Franklin Press: Rand, Avery & Company, Boston, 1881.

THIS essay very clearly shows that the laws of the United States, designed to preserve the health and lives of passengers while they are on shipboard, are not respected by those whose business is to transport people across the sea between Europe and this country. In ten years (from 1870 to 1879), 1,561,126 emigrants arrived in New York. On an average they were at sea thirteen and a half days. Of those embarked in Europe 2518 died on the way here. From January to September inclusive, 1880,